

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-13 ACDA-07 /090 W

-----061545Z 049917 /53

R 291100Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9848

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0971

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, BC

SUBJECT: DEPUTY POLICE COMMISSIONER VIEWS ON RHODESIA AND  
REFUGEES

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: I ACCOMPANIED VISITING FAO CAPTAIN MICHAEL  
FERGUSON DURING HIS MEETING WITH DAVID MOPHUTING, CHIEF OF  
SPECIAL BRANCH AND NEWLY-NAMED DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.  
MOPHUTING COMMENTED ON THE NEW BOTSWANA DEFENSE FORCE, ITS  
MISSION, THE STATUS OF REFUGEES IN BOTSWANA, AND CONTINUING  
PROBLEMS THAT MAKE IT NECESSARY. END SUMMARY.

2. RHODESIA. MOPHUTING THOUGHT THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA  
WOULD GET WORSE BEFORE IT GOT BETTER. HE SAID GOB ANTI-  
CIPATES OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING AMONG NATIONALISTS FACTIONS ---  
REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL EVOLUTION. HE SAID HONESTY COMPELLED  
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HIM TO ADMIT THAT, DESPITE REITERATED GOB OPPOSITION, NKOMO'S  
ZAPU FORCES OCCASIONALLY CONDUCTED OPERATIONS FOR BOTSWANA  
TERRITORY. THESE FORCES REGARD BOTSWANA AS A REFUGE WHERE  
THEY REST, ARE RESUPPLIED AND RE-EQUIPPED BEFORE RETURNING TO  
RHODESIA. GOB OPPOSES THIS ACTIVITY BY PRESIDENT KHAMA HAS HIMSELF  
WARNED NKOMO "ON THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS" NOT TO USE BOTSWANA  
IN THIS WAY. BUT BOTSWANA HAS NO ARMED STRENGTH TO BACK UP ITS

AUTHORITY, MOPHUTING SAID, SO VIOLATIONS OF GOB POLICY  
CONTINUE.

3. REFUGEES. MOPHUTING ESTIMATED THAT SOME 600 MUZOREWA FOLLOWERS ARE IN BOTSWANA. MANY ARE INTERESTED IN MILITARY TRAINING. THE QUESTION IS WHERE IT CAN BE DONE. AT ONE POINT, HE SAID, GHANA HAD UNDERTAKEN TO PROVIDE MILITARY INSTRUCTION BUT THEN BACKED OUT. THERE IS TALK NOW BY MUZOREWA REPS OF POSSIBILITY OF TRAINING IN LIBYA. MOPHUTING ADDED THAT LIBYA'S SUPPORT AND TRAINING OF LIBERATION FORCES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA, WAS INCREASINGLY ACTIVE. A NUMBER HAVE BEEN TRAINED ALREADY, SPECIFICALLY 28 PAC MEMBERS FROM SOUTH AFRICA WHO HAD RETURNED TO BOTSWANA. MOPHUTING SAID ONE OF THE WI HAD RECENTLY UNDERTAKEN A "MISSION" INTO SOUTH AFRICA AND WAS CAPTURED BY SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE. MOPHUTING REGRETTED TO REPORT THAT THIS PAC PRISONER IS NOW "TALKING FREELY" AND EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT RISKS IF THE MAN CONFESSES THAT HE CAME TO SOUTH AFRICA FROM BOTSWANA. CAPTAIN FERGUSON NOTED THAT A NAVY CAPTAIN IN SAG INTELLIGENCE TOLD HIM THE SAG WOULD "CONDUCT SURGICAL STRIKES ANYWHERE" TO NEUTRALIZE WHAT APPEARED TO BE A THREAT TO SOUTH AFRICA. (THIS IS ONE OF THE FRANKEST AVOWALS OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLICY ON THIS SUBJECT THAT WE HAVE HEARD.)

4. BDF AND POLICE. MOPHUTING COMMENTED THAT THE BOTSWANA POLICE WOULD BE KEPT STRONG. ONE REASON IS TO "KEEP AN EYE ON THE BDF IN THE EVENT ANY ARMY OFFICERS GET A LITTLE NASTY". HE RAISED THE POINT THAT ARMIES "SOMETIMES HAVE A TENDENCY TO USE THEIR STRENGTH TO ACT AGAINST LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENTS";  
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THE GOB WANTED NONE OF THAT HERE AND PRESIDENT KHAMA AND THE GOB WERE TAKING STEPS TO PREVENT IT.

5. MOPHUTING CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE HOPED THE US WOULD BE ABLE TO HELP BOTSWANA MEET ITS ARMS AND EQUIPMENT NEEDS; THE UNFORTUNATE ALTERNATIVE, HE SAID, WOULD BE TO HAVE TO LOOK TO "THE OTHER SIDE", SINCE ARMS AND EQUIPMENT WERE ESSENTIAL FOR GOB SECURITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.  
NORLAND

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## Message Attributes

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